

ABERRANT™

Church of Michael Archangel



Novas are seen as the saviors and angels of the new age. The Church of Michael Archangel calls them heretics, witches and aberrants, and its faithful soldiers prepare themselves for warfare with those who would presume too much....

Listen up, aberrant.

We know *who* you are, and we know *what* you are. You have chosen to abandon the ranks of humanity to consort with the dark forces for wealth, fame and secular power.

We don't want you in our town. We don't want you speaking to us, and we definitely don't want you speaking with our children. You have made your choice, and those of us who still fear the Lord have made ours.

Your kind call yourselves novas, and you've tricked the world into thinking you're something good and special, but you're nothing but a band of heretics, aberrants and witches. Let us be clear with you: The Lord knows the score, and He wrote it in scripture that we will hereby share with you:

THOSE WHO USE UNHOLY POWER ARE WITCHES AND MUST PAY FOR THEIR SINFULLNESS.

Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live. Exodus 22:18

Thou shalt not practice augury or witchcraft. Leviticus 19:26

• See also Galatians 5:19-21, Deuteronomy 18:10, II Chronicles 33:6, Micah 5:12, Acts 8:9, Acts 8:11, etc.

THE ONLY HOPE THAT ABERRANTS HAVE IS TO HAVE THE UNAMBIGUOUS TRUTH PREACHED TO THEM, AND PERHAPS GOD WILL SOFTEN THEIR HEARTS AND GRANT THEM REPENTANCE TO DEPART FROM THEIR SIN AND NAME THE NAME OF CHRIST.

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. II Timothy 2:19.

• See also II Timothy 2:24-26, Psalm 5:5, I Corinthians 6:9-11, Acts 17:30, Jude 22,23, etc.

THERE IS A HELL WHERE ALL IMPENITENT SINNERS WILL RESIDE FOR ALL ETERNITY.

And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh. Isaiah 66:24.

• See also Mark 9:44, Luke 16:23 and Revelation 20:15.

We have shown you the way. If you persist in your wickedness, you will be judged and dealt with accordingly. Ours is a good community, a gentle community and a God-fearing community. There is no place for anyone who embraces wickedness and debases himself in exchange for the power of the Devil.

We dealt with the Houston Tornado. We can deal with you.

You have been warned.



American Gothic: 21st Century Religion

Kendra Roshad, for *Continental Religion Digest*

Every secular age breeds its opposition in religious movements. The 21st century, the Nova Age, is a time of bright lights and big spectacles. So it should come as no surprise that one of the smallest but most important new religions of the age is the Church of Michael Archangel. If ever a church were made for old German or French art films, this is it. The Church lives in the shadows, barely visible to outsiders. Eccentric spokesmen come and go, sometimes committing atrocious deeds and offering torturous explanations. The Church moves through a black-and-white world in some degrading, run-down print and could, at any moment, snap or explode into flames right in the projector.

The Michaelites teach that novas are, depending on whom you talk to, devils incarnate, possessed souls or just plain sick. Whatever the details, all Michaelites agree that *real* people have to band together to stamp them out. This is an old song in American religion: You can plug in the Irish, Native Americans, Communists, African-Americans, liberals, homosexuals, conservatives, witches and many more. As a nation we seem to thrive on a steady diet of simultaneously sub-human and trans-human enemies. Novas make good targets. They're visible, they're dramatic, there are enough of them to seem threatening but not enough to really amount to much, and they're clearly not like the fellow next door.

It's interesting how both nova fanatics and anti-nova fanatics seem to agree that novas are going to remake the world. No matter how many manifestos Divis Mal puts forth, gentle reader, I assure you that novas do not drive our age in anything but advertising. Oh, certainly, the geniuses come up with ideas. (I've often thought how disappointing it is that they don't have the big-domed foreheads of EC comics monsters). Then the normal processes of late capitalism take over. We've won no reprieve from the laws of history. Novas aren't saints — we've seen enough drama, trauma and madness centered on nova stupidity and malice to make that obvious — but they aren't demons, either.



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Transcript of
The American Lens
episode, 5/17/07

• **Robert Gruder:** Welcome once again to *The American Lens*, the show that brings you the world through others' eyes. Often, it's a pleasure to prepare for this show; sometimes, it's not. I must say at the outset that this week was one of those unpleasant times. I could scarcely stand to read the published work of our guest tonight and, in fact, soon stopped reading it. I believe you, the viewers, are entitled to hear his presentation, but I want to make it clear that we here at *The American Lens* do not condone or endorse his approach. And now, over to him.

• **Estaban Torano:** Thank you ever so much, Mr. Gruder. It's good to know that the public can count on OpNet personalities for this sort of treatment. In any event, let me turn to the people, whom I hope will listen with a little patience. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for allowing me into your homes. I won't take too much of your time.

I speak for the Church of Michael Archangel. I hold no formal rank within the Church; I'm just a man who likes public speaking and who enjoys the confidence of my spiritual teachers.

We in the Church hold a variety of views about many important matters, and I'll say more about that in a moment. What brings us together is the conviction that the unfortunate victims of Mazarin-Rashoud tumor syndrome comprise the single greatest threat to humanity in our age. Call them what you will, be it "nova" or "aberrant" or something else. A defect in their brains connects them to something fundamentally broken in the world, and now, if we don't act together to halt and heal them, they and we will both suffer all the way to perdition.

Let me talk about the Archangel Michael. We take his name for a reason. According to the shared traditions of Judaism, Christianity

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and Islam, Michael led the angels against Lucifer in the angelic revolt. All three faiths acknowledge him as the one who appears to humanity when it's necessary to bear witness that a particular power comes from God and nobody else. According to Christian tradition, he's the patron saint of, well, of a lot of things, including the sick and dying and also of those who keep the world safe for the rest of us — police officers, paramedics and the like.

Many, though not all, of the members of our Church are Christians of evangelical, Pentacostal or fundamentalist faith. (They're not at all the same thing, but someone else can tell you about that another time.) Some are Christians of more mainstream, liberal or even radical conviction. Others are Jewish or Muslim or even agnostic. Michael is a point of common contact for us, a figure we all agree symbolizes our commitment to act on behalf of humanity.

Note that Michael guards healers as well as warriors. Those unfortunates with defective brains cursed with M-R nodes aren't our enemies in any simple sense. We don't hate them, any more than you'd hate a rabid dog or someone with an infectious disease. It's just that we've got to contain the danger they represent and, if possible, cure them. Until and unless my hedge catches on fire some morning, I believe, and my teachers believe, that God calls us to treat novas *just like* any other menace, neither better nor worse.

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Other groups, from Utopia to the government, can talk about economic and social dislocations. I don't need to do that. I want to talk with you about the more personal menace novas pose. Even the ones who try to be heroic inflict hideous damage on the world. Look at how often a city gets leveled by fire or earthquakes because a nova lost control of himself. That's not a power we can allow to run loose until we, as a species, are a lot more moral and self-governing than any of us seem to be now.

Look, too, at how the role of novas as media magnets inflames old social ills. I grew up in a household where everyone hated homosexuals. That was just the way things were. Then my sister acknowledged that she was a lesbian. It was a long bad stretch there, but in the end, we made peace. Mostly, we did it by respecting each other's privacy. Our pastor reminded us that God didn't call us to judge, reminded us of the Good Samaritan and the question of who is our neighbor and how Jesus gave dignity to the outcasts. We learned to live with the disagreements.

Now along comes some nova like Andy Vance, who sets himself up as a champion of gay people. He reopens all the old wounds, accusing everyone who doesn't flock to his banner of being actively against him, the tired old rhetoric again. He takes the fragile peace so many of us have made and rips it apart. He's like a child shouting "Fire!" in a crowded theater just to see what happens. And the same problem applies again and again: to matters of race, creed, politics, even aesthetics and recreation. Because they use their powers to stand apart from the rest of us, novas devalue the contributions of the normal person and break down the social contracts that make life possible. The rest of us sometimes don't do very well dealing with injustices, but over time, we do make progress. Novas hurt the slow walk toward a better world.

Novas point to the good they do. I'm not a fool, and I look. They do indeed accomplish things faster than we would have without them. But then, tuberculosis makes some people look very beautiful, too. Appearances can be deceiving. Sometimes the good isn't worth the cost. This is one of those times. The world groans under the weight of an illness run amok. Help us heal the hurts and get on with the real tasks of living, which aren't so flashy but are, in the end, the lasting joys God has made for us all.

Thank you for your time. If you have more questions, the Church is in the phone directory, and you can send me e-mail at the address at the bottom of your screen.

E-mail Link: info@archangelmichael.rel

The Gospels tell us that King Herod slaughtered every child under the age of two years within his kingdom, in an effort to kill the infant Jesus. It didn't work, of course, but a

Herod for the 21st Century

Gordon Fleischmann,
special for the *New World Observer*

great many families paid the price for living anywhere near the Redeemer, living lives whose pain we seldom stop to remember. Today, once again, the kings of the

world slaughter the innocents, in an effort to kill rivals whose names they do not know. No, there's no Redeemer born among us. Today, God works through us all, both those of us who accept his teachings and those of us who reject them, and the new kings of the world have to slaughter a spiritual principle, not just a single individual.

We have what we need to know to achieve salvation for ourselves and to redeem the world. The book of divine knowledge is complete. Our work now is, as it's been for the last 2,000 years, to apply what we know. Often, we do a bad job of it.

What earthly amends can we make to those whose ancestors were enslaved or murdered or subjected to countless lesser torments with the approval of those who claimed to be Christ's heirs? In our time, we've done better on some things, though we still have a long way to go.

Novas serve the Devil's ends, whether they recognize or not. Ultimately, all of them secretly subscribe to the Teragen's nova-supremacist agenda. Think of all the children who die each year when novas battle in the streets or in the skies. Can you really doubt that one of those lost babes might have been the next great artist, the next pioneering doctor, the next wise judge? Who knows what insights into God's truth and humanity's conditions will now remain unspoken, because some fool with dreams of glory thought them "acceptable losses"? Who can look into the future and know what might have been? Who among us can say that novas should pay anything less than the highest price of all, their very lives, for robbing us of our hopes, God's gift, the children of the next generation?

Ten Years Down

2,554,990 to Go

Brothers and sisters in true humanity, we've got a long dark time ahead of us. We've begun the Tribulation, and none of us will see its end.

Foolish scientists and foolish preachers alike ignore the **OBVIOUS FACTS** of the age of the world. We know that a thousand years are as one day in the eyes of the Lord. So **ONE DAY** in God's time = **1000 YEARS** in our time, and **ONE YEAR** in God's time = **365,000 YEARS** in our time. (Never mind Leap Years. God's calendar needs no adjustments.)

The Tribulation will last seven years. But that's **SEVEN YEARS** of God's time, which means **2,555,000 YEARS** of our time.

It's obvious. Novas are Satan's effort to break the pattern of history. They are the false redemption of humanity, the Satanic mockery of the **PERFECT HEAVENLY BODIES** intended for us after the Tribulation. Our farthest children will build the City of God on Earth when they reach that perfection through the natural increase and advancement of the one **TRUE RACE**, humanity. Then we will **ALL BE PERFECT**, and we will overthrow the **FALSE PERFECTION** of the novas.

History is bringing us closer to **OMEGA** every day! Don't accept the blandishments of Babylon's great whores, the nova kind! Wait, and all will be given to you!



THE CHURCH OF MICHAEL ARCHANGEL

Private E-mail Message

This is so inadmissible. Get me an insider, not more of your nutbar "operatives" and their magical espionage shopping carts. Love, Alan

The Church of Michael Archangel

Assessment by the Office of Abnormal Religious Pathologies, 4 April 2006

This is an executive summary, gathering together extensive intelligence work and the reports of trusted operatives.

The Church of Michael Archangel is undoubtedly one of the most dangerous of the NARs (Nova-Associated Religions). We estimate that it has not less than 4,350 active members and at least 11,600 SUSs (Sympathetic Unaffiliated Supporters) of Grade II or higher. A random sampling of known members of this organization reveal firearm ownership rates from 2.2 to 3.4 times above the locally adjusted per capita firearm ownership rate.

The apparent disorder of the cult's organization indicates the presence of sophisticated planners. Many media observers have fallen for the cover story of gradual evolution. Obviously, the unified model of cult development presented by the Office of Criminal Organizational Socio-dynamics rules out any such possibility. We believe that the cult's operational center is, in decreasing order of probability, in Austin, Texas; Coeur d'Alain, ID or rural Montana.

Private E-mail Message

To: Mark Anthony Green
Fr: Micah Piper
Subject: Re: A Nation in Decay
Mr. Green,

I am pleased to tell you that you are preaching to the choir on this matter. We *must* not allow Portman a second term. He has sided with PU against the citizens of this country at every opportunity, and with his nomination of Cole "Solomon" Matthews to the Supreme Court, he has shown that he is willing to use his post to bring novas into this country's highest positions of power — a fact I and the rest of the Church find both sickening and ethically reprehensible.

To our shame, America is still too star-blind to see the horror they're setting themselves up for, but with so many aberrant scandals popping up around the world, we can only hope that public support flows to our side before any greater damage is done.

You can count on my unswerving support and that of the Church of Michael Archangel. I have instructed Michaelite clergy across the country to solicit for volunteers in their congregations, and it appears that the response is strong. Many of our parishioners are already strong supporters of the American Eagle Party, and they support your campaign platform 100 percent.

We have made the first transfer of funds to your election fund, and if there is any other way the Church or I can be of assistance, please let me know.

Warmest regards,
Micah Piper
Grand Deacon
Church of Michael Archangel



Discussion of NAEC Report

The North American Ecumenical Council, an organization representing a diverse group of ministers and laypersons in North American Christian and Jewish denominations, released its long-awaited report on the anti-nova, interfaith Church of Michael Archangel today at a press conference at Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, DC.

As expected, the report, titled *"Finding Hope, Finding Perspective,"* stood by its member-denominations general acceptance of the Zurich Accord, which stated that novas are members of the human species. But the 35-page document went on to probe more controversial questions.

"We were asked by the Council to look carefully at the teachings and work of the Michaelites," said Gal Lahat, a lay leader at Temple Beth El Binah, a Reform Jewish congregation in Dallas, Texas, and chairman of the NAEC committee that authored the report. "Specifically, we wanted to understand why people perceive novas as a threat and why so many would turn to this church and others like it."

"We can stand and condemn them all day," said Bishop Christie McKee of the Episcopal Church Diocese of Quincy, Illinois, who also served as a member of the NAEC committee. "Their notions of eschatology and ethics are frightening and often reprehensible. However, while loud condemnations make for excellent OpNet programming, rarely do they do much to soothe the fears of people who turn to these organizations such as these in times of social and cultural crisis. To put a real end to this sort of problem requires a deep spiritual commitment to communication."

But not everyone agreed with the general consensus of the report.

"I'm very concerned that the report does not come down strongly where it should— to make clear that violence against and exploitation of novas, or any individual, is a profound violation of God's will for our species," said Montreal Lutheran pastor Amber Sturgess, a member of the NAEC's executive committee, during a press conference on the report. "I believe a key opportunity to make a strong moral stand was missed." A Project Utopia representative at the press conference expressed similar reservations.

But Rev. Jon Bronski, pastor of the Pilgrimage United Church of Christ in New Orleans and the committee's only nova member, was quick to respond to critics.

"As a nova, I am required to understand why so many otherwise loving, faithful Christians are frightened of novakind. In order to combat this crisis appropriately, we must distinguish between acts of pure hate and acts based on misunderstanding and fear," said Bronski.

The NAEC executive committee will meet to discuss, amend and finally vote to accept or reject the report next month, but insiders expect few changes. The report will have no official authority for the NAEC member denominations, though it is expected to carry considerable moral weight in the ongoing discussion of the role of novas in the 21st century.

At press time, Michaelite officials had yet to offer comment.

Other members of the NAEC committee included Father Gary Fitzsimmons, a Roman Catholic priest and assistant professor of the sociology of religion at the University of Notre Dame; the Rev. Barbara S. Kelton, senior pastor of The First Baptist Church of Sacramento; the Rev. Derek Neve, youth minister at Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, DC; Martha Schattman, associate professor of sacred music at Asbury Theological Seminary; the Rev. Dr. Sally Sheppard-Swain of Decatur, Georgia, a denominational officer for the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and Lisa Unterseher, professor of feminist theology at Knox College in Toronto.

The Introduction to "Finding Hope, Finding Perspective"

To all people of good faith and good will in North America:

May the blessings of All That Is Sacred be with each one of you.

As early as 1978, with the United Nations signing of the Zurich Accord, members of the many branches of the Christian and Jewish faiths, as well as other people of faith in the world community, expressed their firm belief that novas, despite their phenomenal powers and advanced abilities, are, essentially, human beings, with all of the rights, obligations and protections any member of our species might expect.



THE CHURCH OF MICHAEL ARCHANGEL

This opinion gained further credence when Pope Benedict XVI published *Ad Dei Lucem*, stating, "It is ever Our duty to guide all persons of whatever origins toward the light of God. This We are expected by God to do without prejudice or bias of any kind."

This committee, in unity with the denominations we represent, dedicates itself, once again, to our firm belief that novas, like any other human beings, are children of God and are loved by God. Along with the continued statements of our parent religious bodies, we affirm that novas are human beings and entitled all of the rights and protections that any other human beings are entitled to. Additionally, we do not believe that physical violence should be resorted to by those who purport to follow the Divine Will.

Because of these commitments, we are continually saddened by ongoing reports of those who see novas as beings of inherent corruption or evil, agents of Satan and enemies of the Divine Will or Law. Such misunderstandings and misconstruals of the lives and actions of notable women and men are a frustrating reminder of the rolls of conformity and fear in our daily lives. Giving all people of good will cause for alarm was the violent death of nova Graham "Houston Tornado" Herron in August, 2006 at the hands of a group allegedly associated with the Church of Michael Archangel, the largest of the anti-nova religious organizations on this continent.

The Church of Michael Archangel is a highly decentralized group, with ultimate authority apparently lying in the local cell or compound. Most local groups espouse a highly conservative theology, with overtones of evangelicalism, fundamentalism or Pentecostalism, though some local groups include mainline Protestants, Roman Catholics, Jews, Muslims and even agnostics. In addition to their condemnation of nova powers, Christian members are chiefly united by their pre-millennialist and tribulationist interpretations of the end of the world. Three individuals continually emerge as leaders of the organization:



Dr. Micah Piper

- **Dr. Micah Piper**, of Idaho Falls, Idaho. Dr. Piper came to the Michaelites from an unusual hybrid community of Christian Scientists and independent Pentacostalists. As Grand Deacon, Piper is the official "leader" of the Church of Michael Archangel.

- **Reverend Theobald Horton**, of East Lansing, Michigan. Rev. Horton formerly belonged to the United Methodist denomination.

- **Reverend Milo Arbogast**, of New York City. Rev. Arbogast belongs to the independent fundamentalist movement and had no denominational affiliation before joining the Michaelites.

In preparing this report, we spoke with each of these individuals, as well as numerous other church leaders and members.

Before continuing our discussion, we feel it is important to state up front that, despite our condemnation of their motives and actions, we do feel that any discussion of the Church of Michael Archangel and similar groups must raise several pressing



Rev. Theobald Horton



Rev. Milo Arbogast

questions about the relationship of novas to the rest of humanity. In part, we attribute the popularity of Michaelite ideals to the failure of mainstream North American religion to take seriously the moral and theological questions raised by the sudden appearance of such extraordinary abilities within the human population. In search of quick and easy answers, other humans turn to novas as minor gods, including those who have not sought or desired such attention. We also note that supremacist beliefs are not unknown among novas, and such nova supremacists have also been responsible for the taking of innocent lives.

Throughout history, our society has been blessed with the leadership of women and men from a variety of backgrounds, races, ethnicities and sexual orientations. Most recently, among this diversity of persons, we have been blessed to find leaders of phenomenal and fantastic intellect, insight, prowess and capability. We pray now that Heaven will provide us with leaders, nova and non-nova, of exceptional courage, humility and virtue.

As you read this report, please pray for a peaceful resolution to conflicts within our own society.





Terms

from *The New Hedonist's Guide to North American Religion* by Al Begghaye, Lang Publishing, 2007.

Ad Dei Lucem: The 2005 encyclical letter from Pope Benedict XVI that taught that, just as other humans, no-vas had immortal souls and were in need of grace.

The Episcopal Church, USA: The independent US successor to the Church of England, The Episcopal Church is primarily known for its Roman Catholic style of worship and its increasingly progressive stances on social and theological issues.

Eschatology: The study of "end times," both in the sense of the end of the world and time and the coming (or second coming) of a messiah, also in the sense of the end of individual human lives and the destiny of specific souls (punishment, paradise, reincarnation, purgatory).

Evangelical: A 19th-century group of Protestant ministers and theologians of a variety of denominations, originally emerging in England, who believed that a personal encounter and ongoing relationship with the divine were key to obtaining grace and salvation. Though they tended to have a literalistic view of scripture, they were initially known for progressive stances on suffrage and the abolition of slavery, only becoming identified with conservative political causes in the latter half of the 20th century.

Fundamentalist: 1. An extreme, legalistic and literalistic devotion to the particular doctrines and scriptures of a given religion, often opposed to historical or critical study of those doctrines or scriptures. 2. A specific late 19th-century academic movement among American Protestant theologians, based on Scottish Common Sense Realism, that held that all scripture had a literal "plain sense" that a general reader could deduce without reference to historical scholarship. Also believed that certain Christian doctrines (the virgin birth, the physical resurrection), based on their literal, "plain sense" readings, required absolute adherence.

Lutheran: Denominations descending from Martin Luther's break with Rome. The North American churches were originally made up of German and Scandinavian immigrants. The largest Lutheran denominations in North

America are the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the more conservative Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Mainline Protestantism: An unofficial group of Protestant denominations in North America that are generally moderate in their theological and social stances, have strong historical ties to the Protestant Reformation and are committed to interdenominational and ecumenical work. Includes most large North American Protestant denominations with the exception of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Pentecostalism: A doctrinally conservative Christian movement that focuses on the individual's direct experience of God as manifested through miraculous signs, including faith healings and speaking in ecstatic tongues. Though now largely identified with conservative causes, Pentecostalism was one of the first US religious movements to ordain women and encourage desegregated worship.

Premillennialism/Tribulationism: The belief that the return of Jesus Christ before the end of time (the "Millennium") will be preceded by a period of terrible suffering and persecution for all humanity.

Reform Judaism: Originating in Germany in the 19th century, Reform Judaism is now the largest Jewish denomination in North America. Reform Judaism encourages a liberal interpretation of Jewish scriptures and updated forms of most Jewish rituals and traditions.

United Church of Christ: Formed through the merger of several Reformed and Congregationalist denominations during the 20th century, the UCC is widely considered the most socially and theologically progressive of the major Protestant denominations.

United Methodist Church: A US denomination that formed through the merger of several smaller Methodist and Wesleyan denominations during the 20th century.

Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches: Founded in the late 20th century by gay Pentecostal minister Troy Perry, this international liberal Christian denomination mainly serves lesbian and gay communities.



Debate: Novas and Humanity, How Do We Tell?

THIS WEEK THE UNOFFICIAL MICHAELITE HOME SITE BRINGS YOU AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN TWO OF OUR BEST-KNOWN PUBLIC SPEAKERS ON A QUESTION OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO US ALL: DO MONSTERS CONTROL THE CHURCH, AND HOW COULD WE TELL?



WE CAN KNOW - ESTABAN TORANO

ALL OF YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO HOW DEVIOUS THE SO-CALLED NOVAS CAN BE. YOU REMEMBER THE STORY OF HOW JESSIE "TENNIS SHOES" BLACK SPENT SIX MONTHS CREATING A GANG OF POLITICAL RABBLE-ROUSERS WHO TRIED TO ASSASSINATE HER WHILE SHE CAMPAIGNED FOR THE CALIFORNIA SENATE. YOU REMEMBER R. DANIEL "WHITE WIZARD" SEYES AND HIS EFFORT TO INFILTRATE NI AND CREATE UNFAVORABLE COVERAGE OF HIS ENEMIES. YOU KNOW THAT LAST YEAR WE DISCOVERED NO LESS THAN EIGHT NOVAS TRYING TO PASS THEMSELVES OFF AS HUMAN AND JOIN THIS CHURCH.



KEEP IN MIND THAT YOU KNOW THIS. IN EVERY CASE, THE TRUTH CAME OUT. NOVAS LIKE TO GO ON ABOUT THEIR SUPERHUMAN INTELLIGENCE, BUT THE FACT IS THAT THEY'RE NOT VERY GOOD WHEN IT COMES TO CONSPIRACY. COULD JENNIFER "SLIDER" LANDERS KEEP HERSELF ALIVE? AND LOOK AT THE PATHETIC SPECTACLE OF ANDRÉ CORBIN AND HIS SKULKING ABOUT, THEN TURNING HIMSELF IN TO PROJECT UTOPIA. DIVIS MAL MAKES GRANDIOSE DECREES (AND FORCES THEM ON ALL OUR TVS WITH HIS POWERS), BUT IT SEEMS THAT MOST NOVAS WOULD RATHER GO LIVE IN A MODERN SODOM LIKE IBIZA.



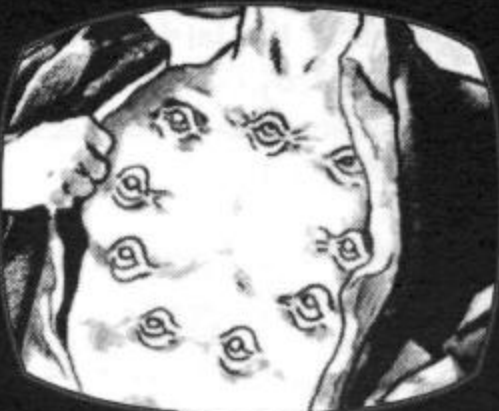
I SUBMIT TO YOU THAT GOD'S TOLERANCE FOR THEIR SINS EXTENDS ONLY SO FAR. YES, HE DOES ALLOW GREAT INJUSTICES THAT WE AS RIGHTEOUS MEN AND WOMEN MUST RIGHT OURSELVES. BUT HE DOES NOT GIVE THE NOVAS ENDLESS LICENSE TO ABUSE THE WORLD. HE GIVES US WISDOM TO SEE THROUGH THEIR SCHEMES. WE MUST BE VIGILANT, AND WHEN WE ARE, HE CROWNS OUR EFFORTS WITH SUCCESS.

WE CANNOT KNOW - GORDON FLEISHMANN

I'M TOUCHED BY BROTHER ESTABAN'S FAITH, I DON'T SHARE IT. IT IS OFTEN GOD'S WILL THAT THE RIGHTEOUS SERVE AS MARTYRS TO THE TRUTH, AND CERTAINLY, THE UNSAVED CAN COUNT ON NO INTERVENTION. GOD DID NOT ACT TO STOP THE HOLOCAUST OR THE GULAGS, AND HE DOES NOT ACT NOW TO STOP THE MONSTERS IN THEIR RAMPAGES... OR THEIR DUPLICITY.



IT'S TRUE THAT WE KNOW OF SOME UNCOVERED SCHEMES NOW. BUT WHAT DON'T WE KNOW? IT TOOK 40 YEARS AND THE FALL OF THE SOVIET UNION TO DISCOVER JUST HOW FAR SOVIET SPIES HAD GOTTEN INTO US GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY. I AGREE WITH BROTHER ESTABAN THAT, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE MONSTERS ARE NO CLEVERER THAN REAL PEOPLE, BUT I DISAGREE WITH HIS IMPLICIT ASSUMPTION THAT SOME OF THEM ARE ANY LESS CLEVER THAN HUMAN SCHEMERS OF THE PAST AND PRESENT. I SEE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT DIVIS MAL IS ANY LESS INTELLIGENT THAN COMMUNIST STOOGES ROBERT OPPENHEIMER OR NAZI COLLABORATOR WERNER HEISENBERG. THOSE MEN HID MANY OF THEIR SINS. HOW CAN ONE EXPECT THE MODERN DAY'S ENEMIES TO DO ANY LESS?



SUPPOSE THAT I HAD BECOME ONE OF THE MONSTERS. HOW COULD YOU TELL? WE KNOW FOR A FACT THAT SOME CAN CONCEAL THEIR POWERS. AM I TOO STUPID TO REMEMBER HOW I USED TO ACT? I THINK NOT. I COULD CONCEAL MY CHANGED NATURE FOR QUITE SOME TIME BEFORE ACTING ON IT....



...RIGHT NOW. GOD FORGIVE ME FOR THE SINS I DO NOT KNOW HOW TO IDENTIFY OR REPENT FROM. IF ONE OF US CAN FALL, WHO IS SAFE? THIS IS TRULY THE END TIMES.

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Michaelite Commits Suicide

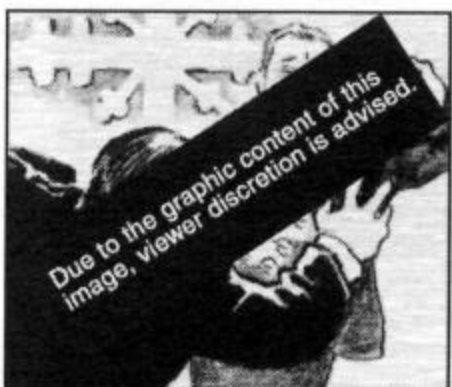
A prominent advocate for the Church of Michael Archangel and its belief in novas as evil beings committed suicide today during a broadcast debate with a fellow church member. Journalist Gordon Fleischmann revealed that he had undergone a subtle eruption and developed some disturbing physiological changes, then shot himself.



Investigators for Project Utopia believe that Mr. Fleischmann erupted as a result of sustained exposure to novas, ironically enough. Fleischmann was known for his crusading coverage of nova abuses; his reports played a major role in sparking the Operation Sling Stone sting against novas engaging in stock market fraud last year. Utopia scientists point out that continued exposure to quantum energies occasionally triggers eruptions.



We here at N! remind people that fear and ignorance are the great enemies of public safety in the Nova Age. If you think you may have erupted, or if you just have questions about novas, ask! Our trained staff of counselors, working in conjunction with Project Utopia and other agencies around the world, can help. Don't let self-loathing lead you to a tragic end like Gordon Fleischmann's.



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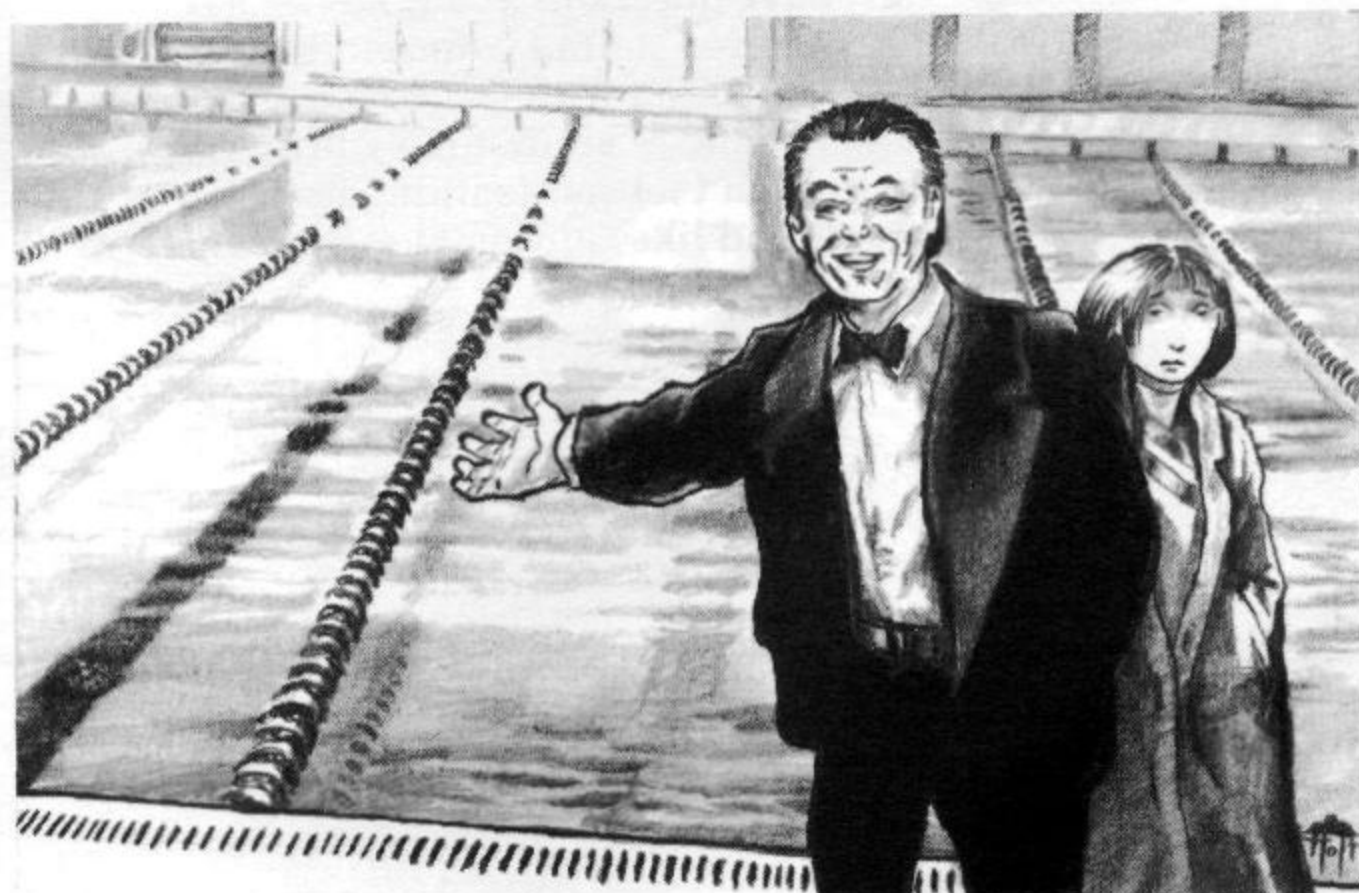
Michaelite, Nova
Address Public Health

In a startling development, Church of Michael Archangel spokesman Estaban Torano joined forces with famous nova Doctor Future to promote better maintenance of public swimming pools throughout the West.

Torano said, "Good ideas come to everyone. Jesus said that God used the foolish of the world to confound the wise and the wicked to humble the proud. Doctor Future knows of the disagreements that my Church and I have with her kind. This matter isn't one of them. She thinks it's good for children to be able to play safely together. So do I. We live in a world that's too often isolated, where people lock themselves up and never come out.

"Parents are right to be concerned about the risks of diseases transmitted in unhygienic places. As supporters of our communities, we of the Church of Michael Archangel take great pleasure in donating our time, effort and money to help rebuild neglected civic facilities. Children who can exercise their bodies and minds together are children more likely to grow up fit, strong and capable of making wise decisions as adults."

Torano added that he was happy to see the Church get a bit of favorable coverage after the tragic suicide of his fellow spokesman Gordon Fleischmann. "Brother Gordon kept himself bottled up at just the time he needed most to be open. We hope to avoid future tragedies like that through this sort of civic effort."



Debate: Novas and Prophecies

We resume our regular series of debates after a period of mourning for Brother Gordon Fleischmann, may God have mercy upon his soul. A single death, no matter how tragic, ought not be allowed to sabotage this series, so today we take up a fresh topic. Do novas appear in Biblical prophecy, and if so, how?

Heralds of the Age

Estaban Torano

When I joined the Church, I believed that novas represented a new sort of challenge to the Body of Christ united in faith, but nothing fundamental. I have since changed my opinion.

I'm not going to engage in complex games of numerology or try to link the 24 novas who get the most press coverage with the thrones that the Apostle John refers to in the Book of Revelation or anything like that. I want to address two broad points, as briefly as I can.

First, the ability of novas to assume remarkable shapes, including those of angels and other celestial figures who occur throughout prophecy. I believe that this represents a new level of evil spiritual power in the world. We know from the account of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness that the Devil can assume a wide variety of forms, and as Shakespeare said in a passage that shows much Biblical wisdom, the Devil can quote Scripture to his own ends. This ability to imitate prophetic figures seems to me a deliberate plan set in motion to distract actual and potential believers from the impending appearance of the real thing.

Second, the ability of novas to create effects on scales up to worldwide and their obvious power to control the environment. No, we haven't yet encountered any of the plagues and woes specifically tallied in the Book of Revelations, nor do I believe that the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse now walk the world. I do believe that novas are capable of fulfilling that prophetic role, however. We know that God often uses the natural processes of the world to His own ends, as in the Thera earthquake that seems to have contributed to events recorded in the Book of Exodus and the celestial phenomenon that drew the Magi to the baby Jesus. Novas make it possible for a new



cycle of events to begin, without making it unequivocally clear to people that God's now acting.

God never deprives us of the power of choice. Displays of raw divine power subvert the power of choice, and He hasn't done that since He last walked among us. Novas make it possible for the end times to unfold in ways that make faith necessary. As spies and diplomats love to tell us, look at capabilities, not intent. Novas deny God's will, but that doesn't mean they play no part in His plan. The stage is set, and I believe that this unprecedented capability can only exist because of unprecedented intent.

Novas are the unwitting heralds of the end times.

The Same Old Story

Susannah Alder

Brother Estaban makes a strong argument, and I do not lightly disagree with him. I simply wish to point out that we can't know in advance whether he's right, and there's some reason to believe he's wrong.

Yes, novas are indeed unprecedented, to the best of my knowledge. But so was the computer and the atomic bomb and the internal-combustion engine and the telegraph and many more inventions. Each of these fundamentally changed the world in important ways, and yet, clearly the world didn't end.

Do I believe that novas play a part in God's plan for the world? Absolutely. I simply don't believe that the part they play is one at the end. I see no reason to believe that we should huddle looking for Jesus' impending return anymore than our grandparents or their grandparents should have.

We face a new challenge, yes. But so does every generation. We must always be ready for Jesus' return. But so must every generation. In the meantime, let us proceed as we always have because the duties of holiness don't change simply because some of our neighbors can now fly.



Private E-mail

From: Geryon
To: Penetrator
Subject: MurderDeathKill

I'm full aggro now. They've no bloody idea what kind of shite they've just called down upon themselves. Those pompous, arrogant gits from the church of the archangel Mike declared at one of their church picnics or whatever the bloody hell it was that the Teragen are to be considered abominations before God, and that I, specifically, was to be considered enemy number one because (get this) I was an agent of Satan.

These Michaelite loons have been a burr in my armor for altogether long enough. I don't give a rat's mangy arse what Orzaiz says about laying low; I'll have none of it. Not only are they trying to legislate us into submission, but now they're wielding theology against us like a billy club.

Their little church social is doomed.

G.



Church of Michael Archangel Newsletter

Dear fellow disciple of Michael's path:

You have shown yourself a courageous advocate of truth in these troubled times. Whatever your service on behalf of the Church of Michael Archangel, rest assured that it has not gone unnoticed. We who serve God's will take heed and give thanks for your work.

You have expressed doubts about some statements of church leaders. In particular, you wonder how they can cry "Peace! Peace!" when clearly there can be no peace with the chief ministers of evil on Earth today, the abominable aberrants. They are not lying to you when they say they reject personal violence as a solution. They understand this to be one of God's limits on their freedom to act. We pray for them and give thanks for their good works too, even as we understand what they don't yet.

There are those of us who appreciate that Michael wields a sword as well as a shield. The time has come for you to pick it up, if you so choose. Follow the enclosed directions, and meet with us to learn what you, as a man or woman of righteous anger, can do against our enemies.

Yours in the great crusade,
Milo Arboghast



#1: The Numbers of the Beast

- **Total estimated monsters:** +/- 8,000
- **Rate of increase:** 170% since 2007
- **Projection:** total world domination by monsters before 2100

#2: The Allies of the Beast

- **United Nations:** complete capitulation since 1998
- **Project Utopia:** known murderers and idolators, most likely linked to...
- **The Teragen:** led by Divis Mal the "terrible angel" (possible actual demon, rather than merely possessed?)
- **The Aberrants:** vigilante possessed; some public sympathy, which must be undermined
- **United States:** complete capitulation since the election of an aberrant President; sinful Presidential philosophy
- **Mass Media:** glorifying indulgence and immorality

#3: Weaknesses of the Beast

- **Firepower:** less than 10 percent of all monsters are bullet-proof (possibly less than 5 percent; data being suppressed makes it hard to tell)
- **General destruction:** we condemn any action against actual human beings, but explosives seem to take out most monsters
- **Isolation techniques:** monsters cut off from public support make easier targets; drive them underground, then hunt
- **Indirect assassination:** activate psychoses and let general public take them down

June 11

Once again, I give thanks to God for Brother Milo. I don't much like being in New York, but it's worth it to study under a man like him. This is my destiny. Someday — soon, I hope — I'll have some earned notches on my gun just like he does.

Today we talked about identifying weaknesses in the monsters. Some of them live on stage all the time, like those peacocks in Team Tomorrow, and they don't offer us many openings. But others, like that witch Alejandra, make a big show of privacy. Some drop out of sight altogether. Brother Milo told us that these should be our targets. We'll be practicing surveillance (I think that's the right spelling) to figure out what those monsters do in private. That's our opportunity.

Brother Milo brought in someone to talk with us. We couldn't see him very well: He was silhouetted (I think that's the right spelling) by a bright light, and there was some gauze or something between us and him. He talked with us about how he and his friends brought down the Houston Tornado. It was a revelation, and I just about mean that literally. He spoke with an authority like I've never heard before.

This guy said that it took them nine months, once they decided to take out the monster. First, they just watched him in action for a while, to work out a list of what powers the demon inside him had given him. They established just how fast he was, how much damage he could do — they had foot-pound charts and all kinds of things — and mapped out his various weather-control powers. This guy reminded us that the de-

mons often give the monsters weird mental powers and that we should never, ever get close until we're sure our targets don't do anything like that.

Then this guy and his fellow spiritual soldiers started tracking the Houston Tornado's personal habits. They found that he liked to go out to the wrong side of the tracks for a drink every so often and that he'd mess up his appearance a little bit to blend in. Typical. If God had given him his powers, he'd feel more urge to take care of himself!

Next, they arranged for a gang to come and start some trouble with the monster. That took two months all its own. I can't even begin to keep track of everything the guy said about blinds and redirections and everything else. I guess that's the point. They wanted a setup that even an inhumanly intelligent monster couldn't unravel all at once. It worked, too. Six bikers got some money and an incentive to get into a fight with the Houston Tornado. Their knives made a little bit of cut, and the press coverage of it told this guy what he needed to know about how much damage the Houston Tornado could take.

He learned that the Houston Tornado's weakness was alcohol. He learned where the monster drank and how long he had to drink before he got sloppy. It took a lot of time and a lot of booze. The monster was on his way home one night and a Church member posed as a cabdriver and picked the Houston Tornado up and took him into the desert.



THE CHURCH OF MICHAEL ARCHANGEL



Then this guy and his fellow soldiers made their move. It didn't take long, he says. Two quick shots to the head took the monster down, and then they carved him up slowly. The demon inside screamed and tried to get out, but they didn't let it. It went straight down to Hell and dragged the monster's soul with it.

Someday, it'll be my turn. I hope I am a credit to my teachers.

August 1

I've been so busy I haven't even had time to write here. I've been spending a lot of time in the field. Brother Milo taught us to look for what doesn't fit and what people don't say. Those are our openings. We run little exercises where we try to find weak spots in each others' routines and figure out how we'd take each other out if we had to. Then we each selected a target and started seriously studying it, just like that guy with the Houston Tornado.

I went for sort of an easy pick. I'm now studying the Avatar, that particularly Satanic monster who teaches people that novas are God's chosen messengers. Like Hell! And I guess I mean that literally, now that I think about it. It's worst of all because he speaks with such conviction. I think he must have yielded very fully to his demon because he doesn't act like a man who's trying to deceive people. He believes what he's saying.

It'll be good to see his funeral.

August 13

I made Brother Milo very happy today. I turned in my surveillance report, and it's clear that the Avatar does have a weak spot. He disappears altogether on a pretty regular basis. People see him on the news every day, but I've established that just under half of his appearances are actually recordings slipped into live feeds. On any given week, he's actually active no more than three or four days, occasionally five.

Brother Milo's been very busy with other matters lately. I guess that everything isn't as well as it might in the Church. We have some people who just need the courage of their convictions. What good does it do to tell others about the monsters if we're not prepared to set the good example and do something about them? Anyway, Brother Milo spends a lot of his time away from our training camp, doing what he can to put out the good word. Sometimes we only see him once a week. In a way, that's

good for me, since I can check over my data more before presenting it to him. He is so unforgiving of mistakes. (I'm not complaining, though. He should be harsh. This is important, and if I'm going to blow it, better I do it now than in a real hunt.)

September 5

This is the slow part. I have to make sure that I really understand what the monster does when. It's hard. He's mostly predictable but not always. He keeps varying his schedule just enough that I can't be sure I have it all worked out.

I notice he's talking more about us lately. I'm not sure whether that's good or bad. I wish I felt more confident that God was shining on the hearts of the confused. Right now, it looks to me like they're rushing to follow the monsters, just like lemmings going over a cliff. (Brother Tim says that lemmings don't actually do that and that Disney had to fake it for a nature film. Somehow the image of film makers deliberately shoving lemmings off a cliff seems even more like how the world is now.) I don't really think it's just us: I have to remember how God showed Elijah the hundreds of faithful believers at a time when all Israel seemed fallen. I'm flattered that God thinks we can bear up under this isolation, but I wouldn't mind a few more comforts along the way.

Brother Milo says that the doubts I'm feeling aren't sinful as long as I refuse to let them scare me off. They're sure not doing that. If anything, they make me that much more determined to see this through.

The Avatar isn't going to be as easy a target as the Houston Tornado was; I can see that now. Even through the OpNet, he's got a dangerously persuasive presence. The demon in him has amazing power over other people's hearts and minds. When we attack him, we're going to have to make sure that he gets zero, zip, nada warning and that he can't say anything to us. It looks to me like he can make people believe nearly anything he wants, and he can impose moods on other people. It would be nice if a high-powered rifle from a distance would solve the problem, but after seeing him stop a runaway cab by standing in its way, I don't think that'll do it. He was hurt, just not very much. Bullets won't do it. We need something else.

Poison gas? I wonder if I could check on that somehow. If I knew where he lived, I could try to engineer a gas leak or something, but right now, I still don't know that. I think he's awake continuously, or almost continuously, and sleeps while he's off in some other identity. Brother Milo thinks that makes sense and is working on a sermon about how the lack of sleep cuts off God's ability to speak to us in dreams.

September 7

Speaking of dreams... I keep having a nightmare in which we're gathered for teaching and all our heads start to spin. On the back of each of our heads there's the face of some prominent monster. Brother Milo says that it's a reminder that the Devil can use us all, if we let him, just the way he used Brother



Gordon. That got me wondering, though. I mean, nobody knows yet how long it was that Brother Gordon fell before he repented and destroyed the demon.

I think I'd better check on us all. We might have secrets, too.
September 29

God take this cup from me. I do not want it to be true. But I'd best write here so that there's some record.

I believe that Brother Milo is the Avatar. I've gone through the records here and the records I have of the Avatar's appearances. The Avatar has never been live when Brother Milo is present and accounted for. There's a gap of at least six hours but no more than twelve between the start of a period where Brother Milo is out of touch and the start of a period of the Avatar being public and the same time between when the Avatar ducks out of sight and Brother Milo reappears.

I've started doing a word count. I don't know much about fancy speech analysis, but the branch library has some good books donated by a local lawyer, and I've been reading up on how it works in the law. I can identify, so far, 14 distinct phrases that the Avatar and Brother Milo use with the same frequency. There are some changes in grammar, but it looks to me like they're within the limits of individual variation (that's what the book calls it).

So there's style and there's timing. Plot the appearances and look for the patterns, Brother Milo tells us, just like the guy who got the Houston Tornado did. I don't know. Should I take it to my brethren? What if I'm wrong and this is a trap the Devil's laid for me? How can I accuse a brother of being part of the problem, particularly one who's taken so much time to teach us how to destroy them?

But there's Judas. And there's Brother Gordon.

I don't know. God grant me wisdom.

October 31

Halloween. The night devils walk the earth. Very appropriate.

After a month of studying, I was finally ready to present the case to my brethren in the training school. I started to do it, when in came Brother Milo. I thought he was off on the West Coast or something, well away from us. He accused me of being a monster sent to destroy his work. He started threatening me. I picked up a chair and hit him with it.

That's when the devil got loose. He started to glow just the way the Avatar always does, and the chair splintered six ways from Sunday. Everyone backed away from him, until he yelled to everyone else to get me. They all piled on. I'd been carrying my gun lately, ever since the latest round of subway problems, and... well, I started shooting. Two of them went down before the rest backed off.

The Avatar/Brother Milo just stood there in the middle of the room, glowing and shaking. He wasn't looking at anything in particular. All of a sudden he ran off somewhere. We all just looked at each other. The brethren apologized for doubting me, and we managed to get the wounded bandaged up and an ambulance called.

While we were waiting for the ambulance, we started hearing noises, like a lot of people were outside. I looked out the window, and for a minute, I thought I was watching some old Frankenstein movie. There was a whole crowd coming up the street, with the Avatar in the lead, and as God is my witness, they carried torches and rakes along with broken bottles, baseball bats, some guns like mine and whatever came to hand. The Avatar had them chanting, "No false church! One true faith! Novas lead the way!" over and over again. I saw the ambulance we'd call pull up a side street, see them and stop dead. I guess I can't condemn the men inside for refusing to tangle with a mob, but I wish there were more brave souls.

I knew at once what had happened. The Avatar had used his powers to rally the mob against us. Unfortunately for us, he isn't stupid. He had the crowd come up quietly. By the time they started making a lot of noise, they were all around us.

We made for the basement just as the first of them burst in. I looked back and saw one of the brothers, very literally, ripped limb from limb by the mob. I got a glimpse of the Avatar. It broke my heart. There was all of Brother Milo's zeal, in the service of pure evil. The brethren grabbed me and hauled me down before I could fall under his power, God be thanked.

We scattered through the sewers, just like in some damnable action movie. I know that the mob got at least three of us, and I lost track of everyone else. I'm here in some flophouse, writing my diary and trying to figure out what I can possibly do next.

November 11

The beast has grown careless. Since Halloween, it's been shifting between identities every few hours, rather than every few days. It spends so little time with one face on that I've been able to establish its lair. I believe that I've found its weakness. I must plan my attack so that it's clear what the true story is.

I've gone through this diary to remove specific names and places. I do not wish to create difficulties for any of my brethren in the struggle. But I must let others know about the evil that festers inside the Church. I will send copies to chosen Michaelites before I embark on what seems, right now, likely to be my first and last hunt.

God bless all of us who labor for the truth in an age of darkness. May He crown your efforts with more success than He gave to me.



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Nova Mob in New York?

Brother Milo Arbogast of the Church of Michael Archangel condemns last night's violence around an abandoned church as "just the sort of Satanic activity we've always said novas really stand for. There is no sanctuary so holy that those demons will not attack it. The law stands idly by, just as we expect from Babylon."

Local nova the Avatar in turn condemned the church as responsible. "Just look at what the police found in the church. Weapons. Lesson plans on hunting and destroying our kind. Bunkers and storage space for some unknown number of would-be monster hunters. This is the true Satanic activity, taking up arms against God's chosen ministers for the age. Let the church repent of its sin before judgment consumes them all!"

The police confirm that they found a substantial quantity of illegal armaments. Neither police nor Utopia observers commented on the Avatar's other allegations, nor on the story that local citizens detected the illegal activity and attempted citizens' arrests, supported by the Avatar, once he found out what was going on. One anonymous source did say, "Sure, that's the story. You tell me how much stories mean when you got guys who can control minds."



Apartment Block Burns; Six Die

Fire officials report that a waterfront apartment block caught fire at about 3 AM and burned completely in a matter of minutes. Investigators quickly ruled out arson, demonstrating an extremely inferior set of gas lines. A spark anywhere in the building could have sent explosions through the whole structure. Among the dead is prominent anti-nova crusader Milo Arbogast of the Church of Michael Archangel. He was apparently visiting with fellow members of the Church; another victim is a known student of his....

The Six-Month Report

...also on the "Where are they now?" list, the Avatar, once the Big Apple's holiest roller. We think that he found the Big Apple just a little boring after his favorite rival, the very weirdly reverend Arbogast, snuffed it. We expect to hear about the Avatar popping up any day now in some other sin spot to preach the word of God as he's been hearing it.

United States v. Roderick F. Smith

Excerpts transcribed for OpNet by Popular Legal News Network



PROSECUTION: YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS A CHRISTIAN FREEMAN.
DEFENDANT: I DO.

P: PLEASE EXPLAIN TO THE COURT WHAT THAT TERM MEANS TO YOU.

D: LIKE THE CHRISTIAN RECONSTRUCTION MOVEMENT, THE CHRISTIAN FREEMAN MOVEMENT BELIEVES THAT THE BEST RULERS ARE THOSE WHO ACCEPT GOD'S SALVATION AND THEIR PLACE IN HIS PLANS. UNLIKE OUR PREDECESSORS, WE BELIEVE THAT, IN THE PRESENT MOMENT, NO GOVERNMENT WORTHY OF RESPECT AS A COVENANT BETWEEN GOD, THE RULERS AND THE PEOPLE NOW EXISTS.

P: ARE YOU AN ANARCHIST?

D: GOODNESS, NO. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE EARLY ARRIVAL OF A NEW GOVERNMENT, RUN ON BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES, TO WHICH I CAN IN GOOD CONSCIENCE GIVE MY ALLEGIANCE. I REGARD MY CURRENT CONDITION OF STANDING OUTSIDE THE LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY OF ALL EXISTING GOVERNMENTS AS A TEMPORARY ONE, SIMILAR TO THE DISRUPTION OF WARTIME OR BAD WEATHER.

P: THE VAST MAJORITY OF CHRISTIANS DISAGREE WITH YOU AND SEE NO PROBLEM WITH OBEYING GOVERNMENTS LIKE OURS.

D: THE VAST MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN EVERY AGE HOLD WRONG IDEAS, MA'AM. IT SEEMS CLEAR TO ME THAT JESUS' COMMAND TO OBEY CAESAR WAS PART OF A DISPENSATION NOW CONCLUDED, BUT I CAN'T FORCE ANYONE TO AGREE WITH ME.

P: SINCE YOU THINK THIS COURT IS PART OF AN ILLEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT, WHY DID YOU AGREE TO APPEAR?

D: I BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF GOOD EXAMPLES. I HOPE TO SHOW OBSERVERS A DIFFERENT WAY OF SEEING THE WORLD THAN THEY'VE THOUGHT OF BEFORE. YOU'VE OFFERED ME A PULPIT. ALSO, IN PRACTICAL TERMS, MY REFUSAL WOULD MEAN VERY LITTLE EXCEPT, MOST LIKELY, A QUIET MARTYRDOM SOMEWHERE AWAY FROM THE PUBLIC EYE. I DON'T EXPECT JUSTICE HERE, BUT I DO EXPECT TO BE HEARD.

P: TELL US IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHY YOU'RE HERE, MR. SMITH.

D: AT AROUND 10 PM ON THE NIGHT OF MAY 11TH, I KILLED SARA NEWMAN, WHO CALLED HERSELF "STARBELL." I THEN TURNED MYSELF IN TO THE POLICE, REPORTED THE DEATH AND DESCRIBED HOW I DID IT. THE USUAL PROCESS OF JURISPRUDENCE BROUGHT ME HERE.



DEBRIS SOON FILLED THE AIR AROUND US. TWO WINDOWS OF OUR CAR GOT KNOCKED IN. A CHUNK OF PAVEMENT NEARBY STRUCK THE CAR NEXT TO US. IT WAS BEING DRIVEN BY MISS NEWMAN, THOUGH OF COURSE I DIDN'T KNOW THAT AT THE TIME. SHE'D ERUPTED, AS THEY CALL IT, NOT LONG BEFORE AND WAS ON HER WAY TO MEET WITH T2M WHEN THE FIGHT BROKE OUT. SHE DEMONSTRATED HER FORCEFIELD POWERS, BURSTING OPEN HER CAR AND CREATING AN EXPANDING FORCE BUBBLE. THAT COLLIDED WITH MY CAR AND, WITH THE SPARKS FLYING, SET THE GAS TANK ON FIRE. THE CAR EXPLODED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

I MANAGED TO GET FREE OF MY SEAT BELT AND CRAWL TO SAFETY. MY WIFE AND CHILDREN WEREN'T SO LUCKY. MISS NEWMAN PLUNGED INTO THE FIGHT, AND BY THE TIME ANYONE DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP, IT WAS TOO LATE.

I ATTEMPTED TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION, OF COURSE; THIS WAS BEFORE I JOINED THE CHRISTIAN FREEMAN COMMUNITY. I DISCOVERED THAT AMERICAN COURTS WILL EXCUSE KILLINGS BY NOVAS IN THE ABSENCE OF VERY, VERY HARD EVIDENCE OF INTENT TO INFLECT HARM. THE LOOPHOLES VARY, BUT IN PRACTICE, A NOVA MUST LEAVE A DIRECT ADMISSION OF MURDEROUS INTENT TO GET ANYTHING MORE SERIOUS THAN A SLAP ON THE WRIST AND UTOPIA SUPERVISION. SINCE UTOPIA SUPERVISION IS WHAT MISS NEWMAN WANTED AT THE TIME SHE KILLED MY FAMILY, IT'S SCARCELY A PUNISHMENT.



P: YOU ADMIT TO THE KILLING?

D: I DO. I TAKE NO PLEASURE IN IT, BUT I REGARDED IT AS NECESSARY, AND AS AN HONEST MAN, I'M WILLING TO TAKE CREDIT FOR MY ACTIONS.

P: WERE YOU PERSONALLY ASSOCIATED WITH MS. NEWMAN?

D: ONLY IN THE SENSE THAT I'D BEEN OBSERVING HER FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BEFOREHAND.

P: YOU STALKED HER?

D: MA'AM, I'M A HUNTER OF MONSTERS. I OBSERVED HER POWERS AND WEAKNESSES, HER CUSTOMARY BEHAVIOR AND HER REGULAR HABITATS. I DID THIS AS ANYONE WOULD DO WHEN HUNTING DANGEROUS PREY.

P: DID YOU INTEND TO MURDER HER AT THE OUTSET?

D: SINCE I DECLINE TO ACCEPT THE STATUS OF "NOVAS" AS HUMAN, NO, I DID NOT INTEND TO MURDER HER. I DID INTEND TO KILL HER, AND I AGREE THAT THE KILLING COUNTS AS MURDER IN AMERICAN LAW. THIS IS ONE REASON I DON'T ACCEPT THE LAW.

BENCH: PLEASE CONFINE YOURSELF TO THE QUESTIONS ASKED, MR. SMITH.

D: YES, YOUR HONOR.

P: IS THERE A REASON YOU CHOSE MS. NEWMAN AS YOUR TARGET, OUT OF THE WHOLE AMERICAN POPULATION OF NOVAS?

D: YES, MA'AM. SHE KILLED MY WIFE AND CHILDREN.

B: ORDER IN THE COURT! CEASE THIS COMMOTION!

P: EXPLAIN, PLEASE, MR. SMITH.

D: ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 1, FOUR YEARS AGO, MY FAMILY AND I WERE DRIVING THROUGH THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS ON A FAMILY VACATION. WE ENDED UP IN A TRAFFIC JAM OUTSIDE SALT LAKE CITY. THE RADIO NEWS SAID THAT THERE WAS A FIGHT GOING ON BETWEEN TEAM TOMORROW AND SOME LUNATIC ABERRANTS. THE FIGHT OCCASIONALLY MOVED OUR WAY; WE COULD SEE FLYING PEOPLE, ENERGY BOLTS AND ALL THE PARAPHERNALIA OF THESE CONFLICTS. QUITE SUDDENLY, WE BECAME PART OF THE BATTLEFIELD. ONE OF THE NOVAS FIGHTING T2M, THE SO-CALLED DESERET CRUSADERS, SMASHED INTO THE GROUND NOT TEN FEET FROM WHERE WE WERE CAUGHT IN THE JAM. HE'D BEEN KNOCKED THERE BY MONTOYA-BERNAL, AND OTHER T2M MEMBERS FOLLOWED THE CRUSADER IN TO CONTINUE THE BATTLE.



IN PRACTICAL TERMS, THEN, THERE WOULD BE NO JUSTICE FOR MY FAMILY. UTOPIA SENT A TOKEN PAYMENT, BUT I DO NOT ACCEPT WERGILD AS SUITABLE COMPENSATION. I DECIDED TO SEEK OUT SOME WAY OF ACTING MORE EFFECTIVELY. I FOUND A PLACE IN CHRISTIAN FREEMAN LIFE TO ADDRESS SOCIAL ISSUES OF LONG-STANDING CONCERN TO ME AND IN THE CHURCH OF MICHAEL ARCHANGEL A SET OF SPIRITUAL ANSWERS THAT MET MY NEEDS.

MISS NEWMAN ESCAPED CAESAR'S JUSTICE. I DECIDED TO MAKE SURE SHE DIDN'T ESCAPE GOD'S JUSTICE AS WELL. BEING IN A HURRY DOESN'T EXCUSE US FROM GUILT WHEN WE INJURE OTHERS. I BELIEVE THAT NOVAS SHOULD BE HELD TO AT LEAST STRICT A STANDARD. YOU DISAGREE, AND SOON YOU'LL PRONOUNCE SENTENCE ON ME.

Who's In Your House?

If you're like most people, you like to think that when you go home and shut the door, you're on one side and the world is on the other.

Oh, sure, the police can come in with warrants and that sort of thing, but in general, what's in your house is what you choose.

So when was the last time you thought about what the OpNet *really* is?

Do you know how it works? No. No human being does. We're supposed to trust our super-intelligent good friends with lewd costumes and barbarian morals to do the right thing. Never mind that some of them can make computers come alive, fly through the Sun or build their homes at the bottom of the ocean. They'd never deceive us, never create some machine intelligence to infiltrate everywhere and learn all our secrets.

Of course not.

There's no nova equivalent to Nixon or Manson. All that business with novas murdering each other for their secret clubs, don't worry about that. Pay no heed to that unknown thing that sits there where once a human-built computer did. Surely it can't do anything bad to you, and even if it could, your good and wise masters won't let it.

Don't think about it.

Unless maybe you'd like to start waking up.

For information about what the OpNet *really* means to us all, contact the Church of Michael Archangel. There's a war on, and the human race needs you.

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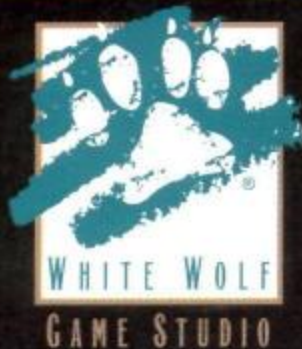
Michael Archangel

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

In their own minds, the members of The Church of Michael Archangel are heroes and martyrs. While the media around them are tempted, deceived and misguided and the masses are lured toward oblivion, the Michaelites stand firm against the nova menace and wield their faith like a sword.

**Thou shalt not worship the idols set
before thee by the media.**

The Church of Michael Archangel hates and resents novas, claiming that they detract from the glory of God and eclipse the good deeds of baselines. How do they survive in a world where novas are the center of a media phenomenon? How do they spread their message? What tactics do they use to combat the "nova plague" they see beguiling the eyes of the masses? This book takes a look at the movement, its leaders and its secret weapon and allows you to include the Michaelites in your own Aberrant series.



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